

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OIC-04 IO-14 DRC-01 RSC-01 /065 W

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R 140901Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1005

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS; ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

IN ITS SESSION ON DECEMBER 13 THE AD HOC GROUP
APPROVED THE IDEA OF A 6-MONTH CONTRACT FOR
INTERPRETERS IN ORDER TO ASSURE THEIR AVAILABILITY
DURING THE COMING MONTHS ON THE BASIS OF THE
BELGIAN PAPER BELOW DESCRIBING THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO ENGAGEMENT OF INTERPRETERS.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE INTERPRETERS FOR THE CONFERENCE ARE RECRUITED AND
ADMINISTERED BY THE CONFERENCE PLANNING AND COORDINATION UNIT
OF THE UNIDO, WHICH HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO THE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED
MARKET OF INTERPRETERS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

2. ALL INTERPRETERS WITH THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS ARE MEMBERS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS
(AIIC) AND ABIDE TO THE RULES OF THE TRADE UNION.

3. ACCORDING TO A AIIC RULE, OUR CONFERENCE SHOULD EMPLOY 12
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INTERPRETERS, BUT THANKS TO THE INTERVENTION OF THE CHIEF OF THE

CONFERENCE, SERVICES OF UNIDO AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SMALL AMOUNT OF WORK OUR CONFERENCE REQUIRES FROM THE INTERPRETERS, THE AIIC HAS AGREED THAT WE RECRUIT ONLY 8 INTERPRETERS.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN AIIC AND THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN FAMILY, INTERPRETERS ARE PAID SHILLINGS 92 A DAY, EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK, WHETHER THEY WORK OR NOT. THEY CANNOT BE RECRUITED AT RANDOM OR ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS. ON OCTOBER 30, OUR 8 INTERPRETERS HAVE HAD A MONTH CONTRACT WHICH HAS BEEN EXTENDED IN THE MEANTIME TO THE 14TH OF DECEMBER. THE AIIC OBJECTS TO MONTHLY CONTRACTS FOR TOTAL DURATION OF LESS THAN 3 MONTHS; THIS IS EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT WHENEVER MONTHLY CONTRACTS EXTEND BEYOND THE PERIOD OF 2 MONTHS, THE NON LOCAL INTERPRETERS ARE PAID ONLY 60 PERCENT OF THEIR PER DIEM WHICH IS NORMALLY SHILLINGS 72 A DAY, CALCULATED BACK TO THE FIRST DAY OF EMPLOYMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, THE AIIC INSISTS THAT THE MINIMUM PERIOD OF RECRUITMENT OF INTERPRETERS IN 1974 SHOULD BE 3 MONTHS.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS GOING TO BE AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF INTERPRETERS IN EUROPE IN THE SPRING AND IN SUMMER. CONTRACTS OF 6, 9 OR EVEN 12 MONTHS ARE GOING TO BE OFFERED IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN GREAT NUMBERS. IF WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE LEFT WITHOUT INTERPRETERS AFTER EASTER, WE SHOULD DECIDE FOR CONTRACTS OF AT LEAST 6 MONTHS, MORE PRECISELY 3 MONTH CONTRACTS WHICH WOULD BE RENEWABLE. IN THIS WAY, WE ALSO COULD AVOID PAYING INTERPRETERS DURING RECESSES. THE FIRST 3 MONTH PERIOD WOULD EXTEND FROM JANUARY 15 TO APRIL 15 AND THE SECOND 3 MONTH PERIOD WOULD START AT A DATE TO BE SET LATER.
END TEXT.MOWINCKEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MBFR, REORGANIZATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA10307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731223/aaaaaqsi.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005